

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

Plants and Factories under the
Seventh Main Administration,
Ministry of Chemical Industry

DATE DISTR.

25X17 April 1953

NO. OF PAGES

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. Following is a list of the plants and factories subordinate to the Seventh Main Administration of the Ministry of Chemical Industry and all the pertinent details known to me.

2. United Pharmaceutical Works (Spojene Zavody Farmaceuticke - SPOFA)

25X1 The management of SPOFA, located in Prague II, supervised factories in different
25X1 places in Bohemia and Moravia. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] the most important ones were in Prague-Modrany / 5001M-
25X1 1426E /, which is the largest, Prague IX-Vysocany, and Usti nad Labem. All the
25X1 factories were formerly private property, some of them having belonged to the
25X1 Swiss firms Wander and Ciba. Pharmaceuticals were produced by these various
25X1 factories. [redacted] Pharmaceutical production was
25X1 scheduled to be increased through an expansion of existing facilities. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] rumors were current to the effect that the factories under SPOFA would
25X1 be subdivided into independent enterprises and placed under the jurisdiction
25X1 of the Ministry of Health. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
25X1 The former director of SPOFA was a pharmacist named Josefina CEMELOVA,
25X1 who was purged in the wake of SLANSKY's arrest; she had been a prominent
25X1 figure in the Party, having participated in the Spanish Civil War. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] Ing. (fnu) BENDA, a young chemist and fervent
25X1 Communist, was the chief engineer of SPOFA. The administrative deputy was
25X1 (fnu) PALKOVSKY, and the head of the financial branch was (fnu) PLESINGER
25X1 who was formerly director of the Panto Oil Refinery in Pardubice.
25X1

SECRET

25X1

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC			
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--

127

SECRET

25X1

-2-

Slovakofarma

3. [redacted] the Slovakofarma factory [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] was an old factory which had been expanded and
 25X1 modernized. [redacted] pharmaceuticals
 25X1 were turned out there. In Bratislava, on Bottova Ul. 5, was a
 25X1 research unit which was under Slovakofarma's jurisdiction; the head
 25X1 of this research unit was Dr. (fnu) TAMCHYNA.

United Lacquer and Paint Works (Spojene Tovarny na Barvy a Laky)

4. With its main offices in Prague XII, these Works had about 15
 25X1 factories spread about Bohemia and Moravia. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] the largest ones were located in
 25X1 Prague IX-Hloubetin, Kralupy. [redacted] Uherske Hradiste [redacted]
 25X1 1727E, and Usti nad Labem. All were rather small and have been
 25X1 reconstructed since World War II [redacted]
 25X1 The
 25X1 factories in Kralupy and Uherske Hradiste were the most modern.
 25X1 Lacquers, paints, and solvents were produced by [redacted]
 25X1 these factories. The quality was very poor and the variety was quite
 25X1 limited because of shortages of proper ingredients, which had to be
 25X1 imported. Acetone produced in Czechoslovakia was of too poor a
 25X1 quality to meet the needs of the lacquer industry. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] none of the factories had its own power station, and
 only the plants in Uherske Hradiste and Kralupy had spur tracks
 leading into the factory area. The Works had its own research
 institute, which was located on Sokolska trida in Prague X. The
 director of the Works was (fnu) KOLAR, a former worker. His admin-
 istrative deputy was (fnu) BAROCH, an expert in lacquers, who was an
 unenthusiastic Party member.

Slovakian Chemical Works (Slovenske Lucebni Zavody)

5. This plant [redacted] was located in Likier
 25X1 [redacted] 4834N-1957E. It was quite old but was expanded in 1950 and 1951 by
 25X1 the construction of a new lacquers department. This new building
 25X1 replaced the old lacquers plant in Bratislava, which was transferred
 25X1 to the Ministry for storage purposes. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] Its principal products were lacquers,
 25X1 paints, and solvents; charcoal, acetone, acetic acid, methyl alcohol,
 25X1 butyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, and other derivatives from wood
 distillation. Most of its wood was obtained from the forests in the
 surrounding area. There seemed to have been a shortage of proper
 ingredients for the production of lacquers, because many of the
 complaints of poor quality were excused for this reason. Difficulties
 have also been encountered in obtaining chemically pure acetone.
 25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] the plant director was Dr. (fnu) LENGYEL, a Slovakian
 chemist, but rumors were current that he would soon be replaced by a
 worker.

Fotochema

6. [redacted] this plant [redacted] was located in Hradec
 25X1 Kralove. It was very small, and [redacted] its products were
 25X1 of very poor quality. It produced photographic film, X-ray film,
 25X1 and photographic paper. [redacted] this plant was scheduled to
 25X1 be transferred to another Ministry [redacted]
 25X1

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

Central Bohemian Chemical Works (Stredoceske Chemické Zavody)

7. The Central Bohemian Chemical Works was formed after the 1949 reorganization of the chemical industry for the purpose of combining a few small plants into an administrative unit. The administrative offices were located in Prague until 1951, at which time they were transferred to Melnik /5021N-1429E/, a small town about 20 km. north of Prague. The most important plants in this administrative unit were located in Psovka /5022N-1428E/ and Velvary /5017N-1415E/. Both plants were constructed in the 1920's.

25X1 [redacted] however,
25X1 [redacted] much new construction will be done because neither of these
25X1 plants produced goods which were considered to be of great importance
25X1 to the Czech national economy. Among the items produced by these
25X1 plants were enamels ("fritty" and "glasury"), used in the glass and
25X1 ceramics industries, special glues, bronze paints, and a solution
25X1 known by the trade name of "Solanka" which was used for preserving
25X1 milk. Solanka was shipped in steel drums; glues were shipped in linen
25X1 sacks.

25X1 [redacted] the manager of these Works has been
25X1 replaced by a former worker. [redacted] the administrative
25X1 deputy was (fnu) FRYDRYCH, formerly a high official in the Society
25X1 for Chemical and Steel Production (Spolek pro Chemickou a Hutní
25X1 Vyrobu). Although an anti-Communist and considered politically
25X1 unreliable, FRYDRYCH was permitted to retain his position because of
25X1 his ability as a trade expert in the chemical field.

Technoplyn

8. The management of this enterprise was located in Prague and it had
25X1 factories throughout Czechoslovakia. It was the successor of an old
25X1 firm [redacted] AGA and [redacted] was formerly German.
25X1 This enterprise produced compressed hydrogen and oxygen and also
25X1 handled the distribution of these items. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

SECRET